

# Sediments and GenX in The CFR

Ralph Mead, Brooks Avery, Steve Skrabal, Bob Kieber (Graduate students: Brittany Saleeby, Rachel Mott, Kate Tito)



# Why are we interested in sediments?

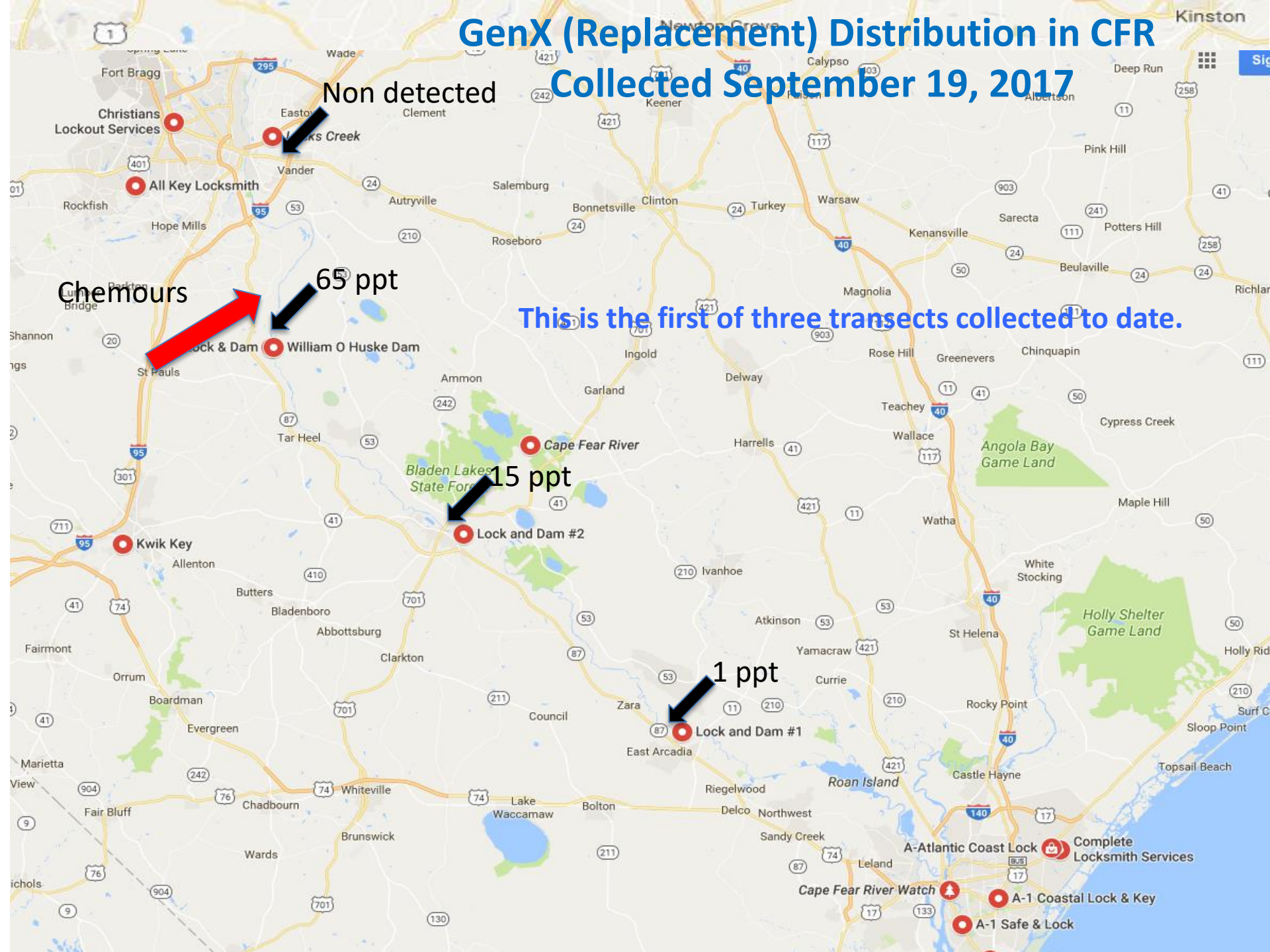
## GenX in water column of CFR





# GenX (Replacement) Distribution in CFR

## Collected September 19, 2017



# Why did the concentrations decrease as you move down river?

Decreasing concentrations from point source  
may suggest

1. Sorption to sediments during transport?
2. Biodegradation or transformation?
3. Dilution during transport?





# Environmental Compartments that may contain GenX

## Surface waters

Fresh ?

Estuarine ?

Coastal ocean ?



Point source

runoff

**Do sediments act as a  
sink of GenX in the  
CFR ? Could they also  
act as a source?**

# Deliverables: Sediments and HB56 (Part 1)

1. GenX in Cape Fear river sediments: Develop method for sedimentary analysis of GenX. Sediment samples have been collected along the river starting at Chemours facility ending at Southport.

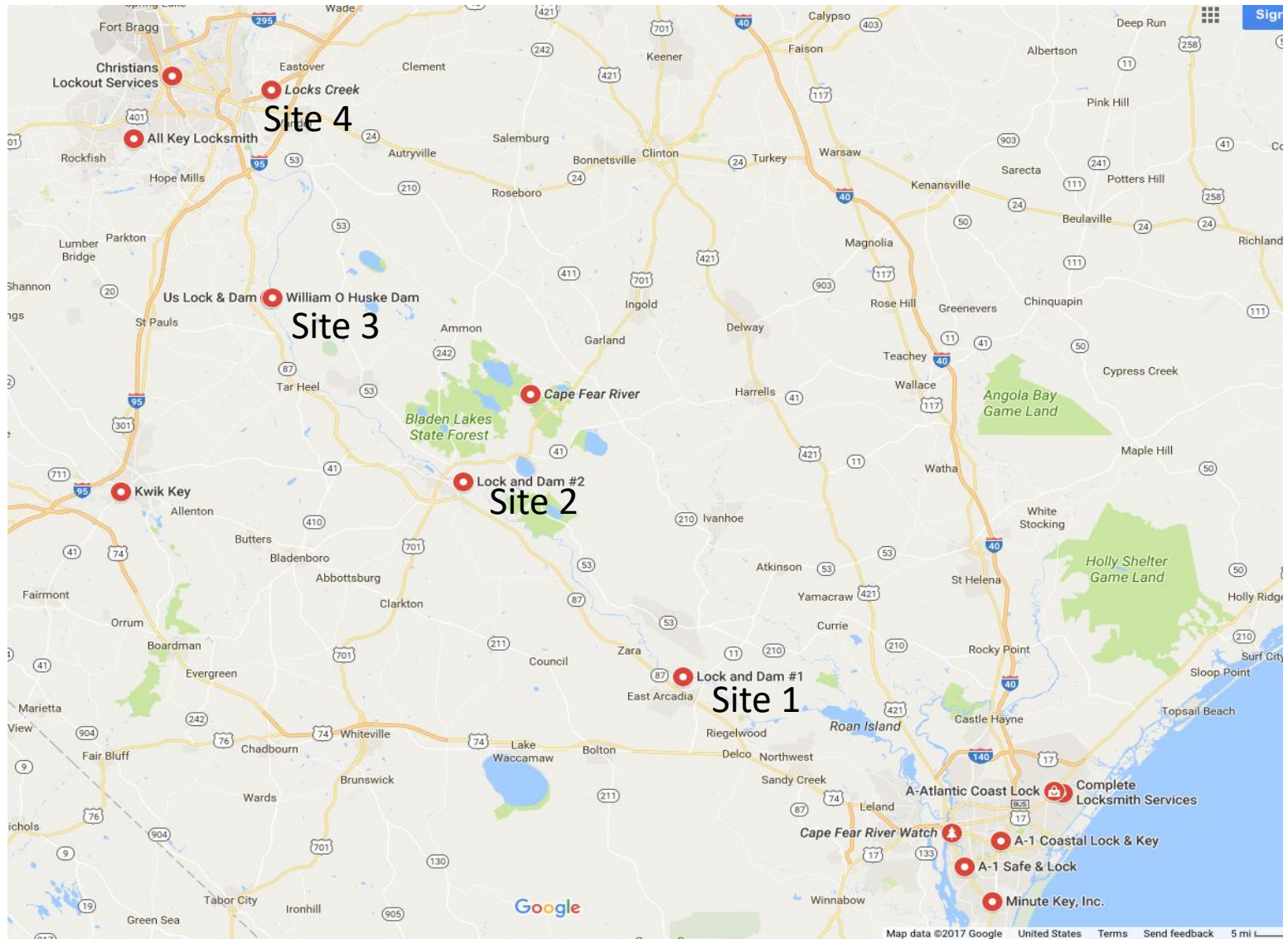
Date of Collection	Middle Cape Fear River	Lower Cape Fear River
9/11/17		X
9/19/17	X	
10/23/17		X
11/2/17	X	
1/30/18	X	
2/6/18		X

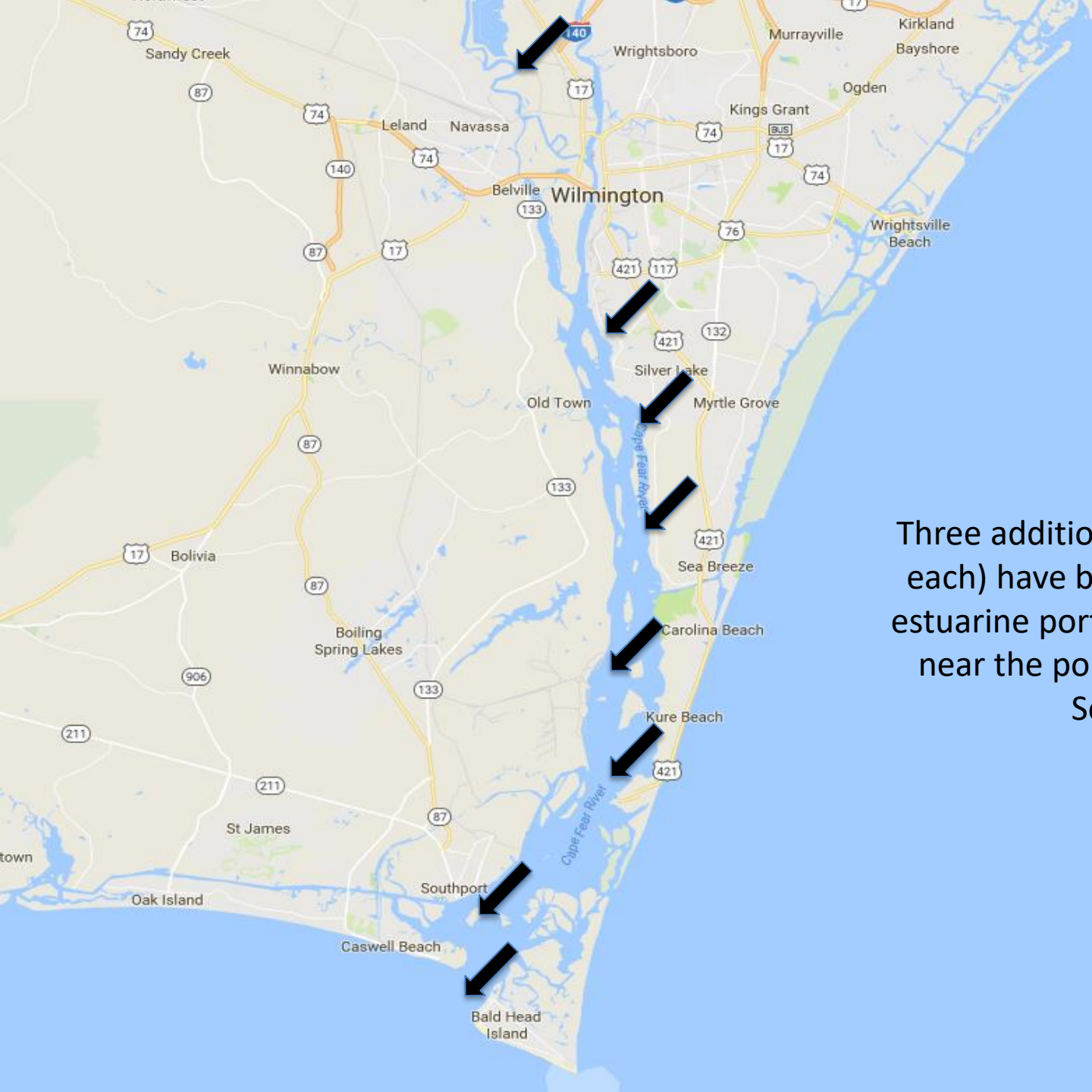
Timeline: method development has been ongoing since December when funds became available at UNCW. Sediment collection and analysis of GenX are currently ahead of schedule for this phase of the research.



# First task: GenX in Cape Fear river sediments

Three sediment transects (4 sites each) have been conducted in order to examine temporal variability of Gen X in sediments





Three additional transects (8 sites each) have been collected in the estuarine portion of the river from near the port of Wilmington to Southport



# Method Development

Method development for sediment analysis of GenX began in December 2017. This phase of the project is nearly complete.

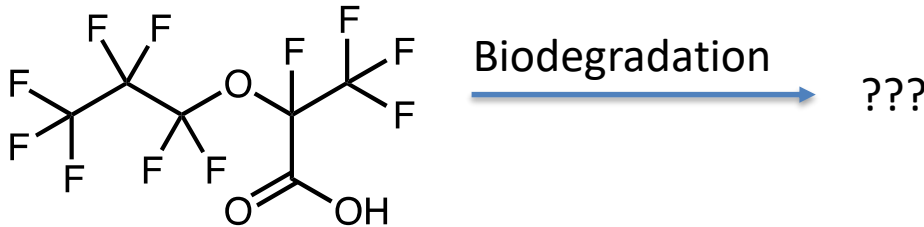
Efforts have focused on microwave (Munoz et al. 2017) and sonication (White et al. 2015) in the presence of methanol to extract GenX from sediments.

Current results suggest sonication is the most effective extraction strategy.

Now that the method development is nearly complete, analysis of the sediment transects will begin. Additional transects will be collected during summer and fall to explore seasonal variability.

## Deliverables: Sediments and HB56 (Part 2)

2. Genx Biodegradation Study: Fresh sediments will be collected for biotic degradation studies of GenX.



Timeline: Sediments will be collected and incubated for time series experiments lasting up to one year

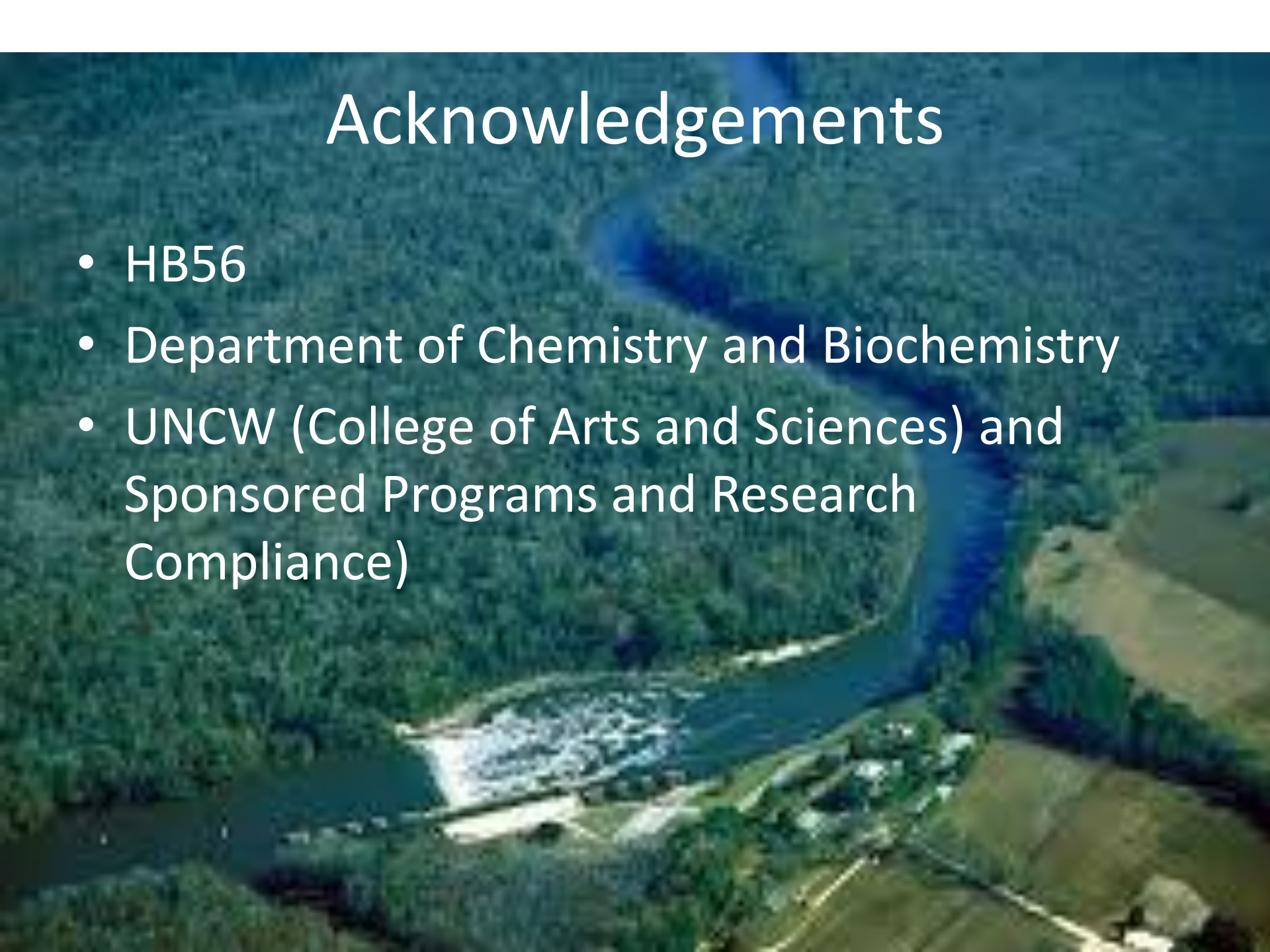


Biodegradation studies: Sediments spiked with GenX and the concentration monitored as a function of time. Transformation products will be identified if present as well. Incubations will be carried out for up to one year.



# Acknowledgements

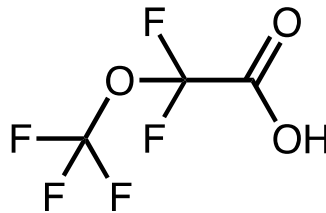
- HB56
- Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
- UNCW (College of Arts and Sciences) and Sponsored Programs and Research Compliance)





# Ancillary Deliverables

- Authentic Standard of PFMOAA has been obtained



- GenX is present in precipitation collected at NSF funded UNCW collection station
- Continued collection of raw and finished drinking water at CFPUA for PFECA and other no targeted compounds